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THE REA PLUMBING PROGRAM

I. INTRODUCTION

The plumbing program is justified by the Rural Electrification Act, and by the contribution which water and plumbing systems make to satisfactory farm living. While the plumbing program is a part of the Power Utilization Program, it should be developed on the basis of its economic, social, sanitary and health benefits, and the increase in efficiency that it can bring to the farming enterprise.

II. OBJECTIVES

- A. To take advantage of the provisions of the Rural Electrification Act which specifically provide for plumbing loans to borrowers, and to fulfill the obligation of REA and the assignment of this obligation to the Applications and Loans Division.
- B. To make water, plumbing, and sewage disposal systems available to every member-user of electricity on REA-financed systems at a reasonable cost.

III. POLICY

The REA policy in carrying out the plumbing program will be to study and evaluate the recommendations made by, and scientific data accumulated by national, state, and local agencies, and business concerns on sewage disposal, equipment, water supply and drainage. In addition, it will solicit the cooperation of these agencies and their active participation in this program.

Finally, it will be the policy of REA to assist its borrowers in every practical way in developing and carrying out their individual plumbing programs.

IV. PROCEDURE IN PROMOTING THE PLUMBING PROGRAM

The organizing and carrying out of the program by each borrower shall be the responsibility of the borrower's board of directors and manager. The Applications and Loans Division of REA is responsible for guiding and assisting borrowers to the end that the greatest number of the borrower's consumers will have satisfactory installations. The following statements of specific responsibilities are made with these thoughts in mind.

A. Responsibilities of the Office of the Chief, Applications and Loans Division.

1. To direct and coordinate the activities of the ten regional offices of the Division.
2. To draw up specifications for materials and installations financed with REA funds.
3. To supply the regional offices with technical information.
4. To assist the regional offices in the drawing up of suggested procedures for borrowers.
5. To serve as the contact between REA, manufacturers and research groups so that REA personnel will be informed of desirable available equipment.
6. To assist the regional offices in carrying training programs to the field.
7. To prepare information on water and plumbing system equipment and installations for the guidance of regional office personnel and borrowers' personnel.
8. To maintain contacts with national offices of educational agencies and groups and professional societies to acquaint them with REA's program and to solicit their cooperation with this program, and to keep informed of developments.
9. To prepare printed educational material to be distributed by REA for the use of teachers, supervisors, and consumers.

B. Responsibilities of the Regional Offices of the Applications and Loans Division.

1. Central Office Personnel

- a. To direct the field activities of the plumbing program within the region.
- b. To transmit information from the office of the Division Chief to field personnel and vice versa.

- c. To maintain adequate records of the progress of the plumbing programs within the region.
- d. To see that field personnel receive adequate training.
- e. To maintain general contacts with field and state offices of educational agencies and groups and regional and state societies to acquaint them with the REA plumbing program and to solicit their cooperation with the program, and to keep informed of developments.

2. Field Personnel.

- a. Under the direction of the head of the regional office, to present and explain the plumbing program to the manager and board of directors of each borrower.
- b. To assist the borrower in locating and training qualified personnel for carrying out the borrower's program.
- c. To work with state and local educational agencies and groups to obtain their cooperation in the plumbing program.
- d. To advise the borrower on all phases of the plumbing program.
- e. To inform the regional office of the progress, experiences and needs of borrowers with their individual plumbing programs, in order that this information may be analyzed for improved methods.
- f. To submit special reports on the plumbing program as requested by the regional office.
- g. On the advice and consent of the regional office, to attend appropriate professional and technical meetings for the purpose of keeping informed and to present the REA plumbing program to other groups and organizations.

C. Responsibilities of Borrowers.

- 1. To organize and carry out (with the advice and assistance of the respective regional office) plumbing programs on their respective systems.

2. To employ personnel necessary to organize and carry out the plumbing program.
3. To cooperate with health authorities, educational agencies, merchants, and local professional workers to the extent that this brings the greatest benefit to their consumers.
4. To request from the respective regional offices advice and assistance with their individual programs.
5. To obtain technical information needed to carry out a successful program.
6. To conduct promotional and educational activities among their consumers to assist in carrying out the program.
7. To make local studies to develop improved methods and to promote the program.
8. To keep complete records of their individual plumbing programs.
9. To use experience to improve their respective plumbing programs.
10. To assume responsibility for the programs on their respective systems.

